



SDMS DocID

2063819

ORIGINAL

INTERVIEW SUMMARY
Task 1, Site 2
Lower Darby Creek Area Site

Lee Taliaferro

Prepared for:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 3
Enforcement Support Services
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Prepared by:

Chenega Technical Products, LLC
1447 Forsythia Circle
Jamison, PA 18929

Work Assignment Number:
Date Submitted:
Contract Number:
EPA Work Assignment Manager:
Telephone Number:
Chenega Project Manager:
Telephone Number:
Interviewer:

Task #1, Site #2
September 13, 2004
EP-S3-04-01
Carlyn Prisk
(215) 814-2625
Ilona Poppke
(215) 491-7286
Michael McCloskey,
Tri-State Enterprise

ORIGINAL

Name: Lee Taliaferro (WITNESS)

[REDACTED]

Affiliation: Former Fire Chief, Darby Township Volunteer Fire Department

Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Type of Interview: In-Person

Date of Interview: September 13, 2004

On September 13, 2004, the WITNESS was interviewed at his place of employment by Michael McCloskey of Tri-State Enterprise. The WITNESS was interviewed as part of the potentially responsible party search currently being conducted under Task 1, Site 2 involving the Lower Darby Creek Area, Delaware County, PA (the "Site"). This interview focused on the Clearview Landfill (Landfill). The WITNESS was provided with a copy of the letter of introduction, advised of the nature of the questions to be asked, and advised that the interview was voluntary. The WITNESS stated that he is not represented by an attorney in this matter and did not want an attorney. No other persons were present and this interview was not tape-recorded.

During the course of this interview, the WITNESS responded to questions based on guidelines provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for former employees.

The WITNESS was shown an aerial photograph of the Site and this aerial photograph was used throughout the interview.

The WITNESS was asked to explain his association with the Site.

The WITNESS stated that he was a member of the Darby Township Volunteer Fire Company from 1959 to about 1974. The WITNESS stated that he served as the Fire Chief from 1959 to the mid 1960s.

The WITNESS stated that a large portion of the Clearview Landfill (also known as Heller's Dump) was located in Darby Township and that the Darby Township Fire Company was responsible for responding to fires on the Landfill.

When asked how often he responded to fires on the Clearview Landfill, the WITNESS stated that complaints about open burning fires at the Landfill were common and that he had responded to Clearview Landfill on more than a monthly basis during the time period he was associated with the Darby Township Volunteer Fire Company.

When asked to describe the fires, the WITNESS stated that most of the fires were started purposely to burn trash. He indicated that some fires were also caused by spontaneous combustion.

ORIGINAL

When asked if he had observed drums on the Landfill, the WITNESS stated yes. The WITNESS stated that he observed drums on the Landfill every time he went on the Landfill.

The WITNESS stated that sometime in the mid 1970s, before the Clearview Landfill was closed, he recalls responding to a very large fire on the Landfill. The WITNESS stated that it took three (3) days to get this fire under control. The WITNESS stated that he does not recall the cause of the fire. The WITNESS stated that he recalls numerous drums on fire and he recalls that the color of the flames was unusual and indicated that chemicals were burning. The WITNESS stated that numerous fire companies were called to assist with this fire including the City of Philadelphia Fire Department.

When asked if he was aware of any documents kept by the Darby Township Fire Department, the WITNESS stated yes and indicated that the department kept a fire report for every fire. The WITNESS stated that this fire report would include the names of the firefighters present, the names of any witnesses, and the cause of the fire, if known. When asked if these reports were still in existence, the WITNESS stated that he did not know, however, he indicated that if the reports were still in existence they would be located at the Company Firehouse.

When asked if he had ever taken photographs of fire scenes at the Landfill, the WITNESS stated yes. The WITNESS stated that it was common practice to photograph the fire scenes and that these photographs would be in the files at the Firehouse.

When asked the names of any individuals that worked at the Clearview Landfill, the WITNESS stated that he only knows the names of the owners. The WITNESS stated that in the 1950s and 1960s, the Landfill was operated by "Old Man" Heller. The WITNESS could not recall Old Man Heller's first name. He indicated that he was the father of Richie Heller. The WITNESS stated that sometime in the late 1960s, Richie Heller took over as the operator of the Clearview Landfill. The WITNESS stated that the Hellers were the only individuals that he had contact with when he was on the Landfill.

When asked if he had observed any trucks dispose of waste on the Landfill, the WITNESS stated that when he was on the Landfill to fight a fire, all traffic going into the Landfill was stopped. He indicated that there was no dumping allowed until the fires were out. The WITNESS stated that he could not recall the names of any of the companies that were disposing of waste on the Site. The WITNESS does recall that Heller owned Citywide Services and that the trash trucks for Citywide were parked on the Landfill.

The WITNESS was unable to recall the names of any waste haulers who disposed of waste on the Site.

When asked the names of any generators who had waste disposed of at the Site, the WITNESS stated that he did not know the names of any of the generators.

When asked if he had ever observed liquid waste on the Site, the WITNESS stated yes. The WITNESS stated that he had observed pools of green liquids numerous times on the Landfill.

ORIGINAL

The WITNESS stated that many of the drums on the Landfill were leaking and he recalls some of the liquids as green. He was unable to recall any odor to this liquid.

When asked if he recalls any markings on theses drums, the WITNESS stated no.

"I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed on _____
(Date)

Signed _____
(Name)